

RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE.

OFFICE NATIONAL DE LA PROPRIÉTÉ INDUSTRIELLE.

BREVET D'INVENTION.

XX. — Articles de Paris et industries diverses.

N° 396.795

1. — Jeux, jouets, tréteaux, courses.

Jeu de bataille avec pièces mobiles sur damier.

M^r HENRI EDAN résidant en France (Seine).

Demandé le 26 novembre 1908.

Délivré le 5 février 1909. — Publié le 20 avril 1909.

PUB DATE

Le jeu qui fait l'objet de cette invention tient du jeu d'échecs et du jeu de cartes: il comporte l'emploi d'un carton ou autre surface rectangulaire divisée en compartiments ou cases comme un damier, le nombre de ces

La fig. 1 est un plan d'un damier destiné à ce jeu.

La fig. 2 est une coupe transversale montrant les pièces en plan.

Les fig. 3, 4 et 5 représentent, en vue de

THIS CLIPPING, THE ATTACHED FIGURES, AND THE SUMMARY GIVEN IN PAGE 1 OF THIS WEB SITE COMPRISE THE ONLY INFORMATION I HAD ABOUT THIS FRENCH PATENT.

Deuffer
patent agent

N° 396.795

M^{re} Edan

Fig. 2.



Fig. 1.

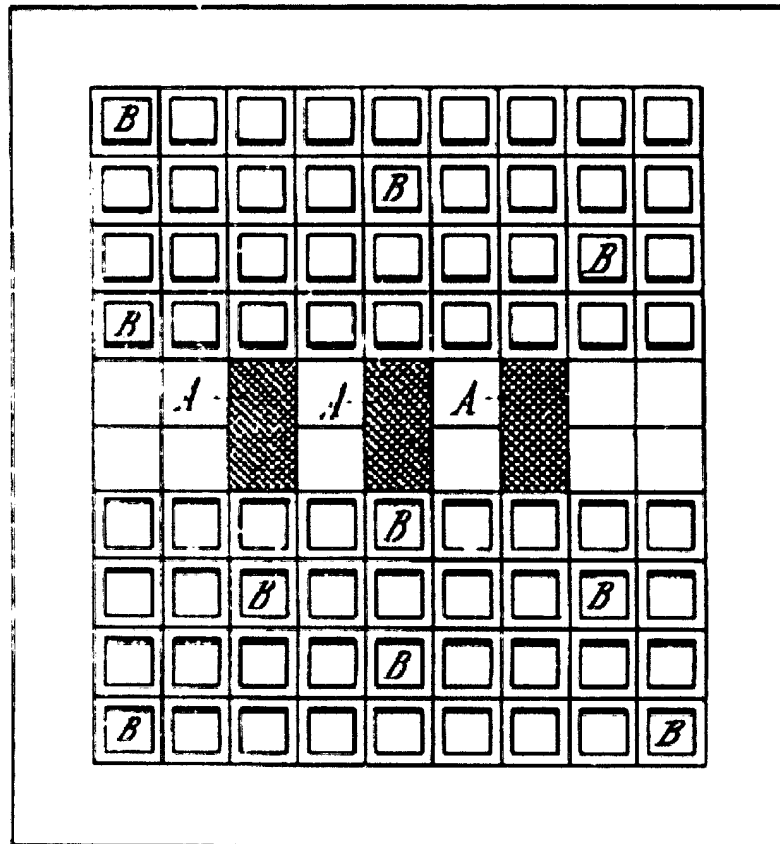


Fig. 3.



Fig. 4.



Fig. 5.



pick d up this message posted by St ve van Dulken in August, 2001 (M ssage Board, Part 2):

"I cam across your site and was int rested in your giving th pat nt numb r f r Strateg . But 695583 is from 1902 and isn't f r a gam . I've ch cked and it is th registered number f r th trademark Stratego and not th patent numb r."

This is absolutely right! But what y ur c rr spond nt doesn't t ll y u - although it can easily be checked in the American 'Official Gazette' - is this:

The Stratego trademark was not filed by Milton Bradley but by a Dutch gentleman called Jacques Johan Mogendorff, "of The Hague", on 09-04-1958 (published under #695.583, 'Official Gazette' 01-19-1960.).

Jacques Johan Mogendorff was a Dutchman who claimed he had invented Stratego during W.W.II and published it for the first time in Holland in 1947 (the game was manufactured by Smeets & Schippers, of Weert and Amsterdam). In 1952 Mogendorff sold his rights to the Dutch game company Hausemann & Hötte, better known as Jumbo. He probably kept the American rights for himself since he filed Stratego as a trademark there and sold it afterwards with "his" game to Milton Bradley.

According to the Dutch collector and historian Fred Horn, Mogendorff simply copied during the war a handmade version of L'Attaque, as produced by the English company H.P. Gibson Ltd, a well-known distributor and publisher of board and card games. Gibson has been producing L'Attaque for years (seemingly up to the early 1980s), and the game was very popular in Britain in the 1930s. They probably got it from France a little after W.W.I. Between the wars they also published naval and air variants like Aviation, Dover Patrol, and Tri-Tactics.

As Bruno Faidutti rightly reminds L'Attaque - the ancestor of Stratego - was invented in France. It was in fact designed by a lady, Mademoiselle Hermance Edan, who filed a patent for a "jeu de bataille avec pieces mobiles sur damier" (a battle game with mobile pieces on a gameboard) on 11-26-1908. The patent was released by the French Patent Office in 1909 (patent #396.795). Hermance Edan had given no name to her game but a French manufacturer - still to be identified - was selling the game as L'Attaque as early as 1910 (as advertised in a Parisian department store catalogue: se R.C. Bell, 'Games to play', 1988, p. 39). A red army was opposed to a blue one (already!).

Below are two images of the patent itself (just the beginning) and of the drawing that was attached to the patent. As you can see it is extremely similar to Stratego. All basic mechanics and rules are described in the patent.

How the game crossed the Channel is still unclear. Maybe Gibson discovered the game in France during W.W.I and decided to buy the rights for Britain. Research is still going on. I'll let you know.

Best regards,

Thierry Depaulis

→ HISTORY & BACKGROUND FOR STRATEGO
→ SUMMARY OF FR 396,795 FRENCH PATENT